

Program for conference:***What is empathy and what do we need it for?*****At Södertörn University August 16-18, 2012, arranged by Centre for Studies in Practical Knowledge****Location: Campus Flemingsberg, Moas Båge, room MB 503****Keynote speakers: Lou Agosta, Ivar Sviestins, Thomas Fuchs, Jan Slaby, Matthew Ratcliffe, Jodi Halpern**

The last ten years we have witnessed an exploding interest in the phenomenon of empathy. The wave of empathy studies in psychology, philosophy, psychiatry and other disciplines is linked to a parallel theoretical interest in the phenomena of feeling, selfhood, inter-subjectivity and morality, but also to practical attempts to understand and improve meetings between workers and clients in different professions, such as health care professions, teaching professions, psychotherapy or social work. In the conference we want to gather academics and practitioners from different disciplines who try to move beyond theory-theory and simulation-theory approaches to empathy. We want to address the question of what empathy is from an empirical as well as theoretical perspective, and we want to connect the issue to what role empathy serves in the development of human beings as well as the exercise of human based professions.

Thursday August 16:**12.00-13.00: Registration****13.00: Introduction****13.30-14.30:** Lou Agosta, Chicago School of Professional Psychology: "A Heideggerian Approach to Empathy: *Befindlichkeit* is not Enough."**14.30-15.00:** Jakob Eklund, Mälardalen University, Eskilstuna: "Empathy as Feeling, Understanding and Care."**15.00-15.30:** Jonna Bornemark, Södertörn University, Stockholm: "'Einführung' and 'Einsführung' in Very Early Experience."**15.30-16.00: Coffee****16.00-16.30:** Dylan Trigg, Centre de Recherche en Épistémologie Appliquée, Paris: "The World of Empathy: Spatiality as the Foundation of Intersubjectivity."**16.30-17.00:** Denisa Butnaru, University of Augsburg: "What would Empathy Teach to Sociologists?"**17.00-18.00:** Ivar Sviestins, Stockholm: GLOBAL PHOTO PROJECT**18.00: Buffet****Friday August 17:****10.00-11.00:** Thomas Fuchs, University of Heidelberg: "The Extended Body: A Phenomenological and Enactive Account of Empathy."**11.00-11.30:** Ramona Rat, Södertörn University, Stockholm: "Thinking Empathy with Levinas."

11.30-12.00: Antti Keskinen, University of Tampere: “Empathy and Language: Perspectives from Philosophy and Psychology.”

12.00-13.00: Lunch

13.00-14.00: Jan Slaby, Freie Universität Berlin: “Against Empathy: Critical Theory and the Social Brain.”

14.00-14.30: Maggie Rose, King’s College, London: “Reducing Stigma in Mental Health Education: Can Literature and Autobiographical Accounts of Mental Illness Improve Empathetic Attitudes?”

14.30-15.00: James Corbett, Harvard Medical School, Boston: “Nurturing Empathy: Structural, Ideological, and Organizational Approaches to Creating Empathic Spaces.”

15.00-15.30: Coffee

15.30-16.30: Matthew Ratcliffe, Durham University: “Empathising with Depression.”

16.30-17.00: Eero Kaila and Markus Neuvonen, University of Helsinki: “The Moral Sense: Then and Now.”

17.00-17.30: Fredrik Svenaeus, Södertörn University, Stockholm: “Empathy and *Phronesis*: Identical, Overlapping or Distinct Concepts?”

19.00: Dinner in town

Saturday August 18:

09.30-10.30: Jodi Halpern, University of California Berkeley, San Francisco: “Clinical Empathy in Medical Practice.”

10.30-11.00: Coffee

11.00-11.30: James N. McGuirk, University of Nordland, Bodö: “Empathy and the Role of Empirical Data.”

11.30-12.00: Robert Hepach, Amrisha Vaish and Michael Tomasello, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig: “Young Children’s Flexible Sympathetic Responses and Intrinsic Motivation to Benefit Others.”

12.00-12.30: Lisbeth Thoresen, Vestfold University College: “Identifying Intersubjective Signs and Structures in Hospice Care: Another Way of Understanding Empathy?”

12.30-13.00: Jojo Tuulikki Oinonen, Serendipity Productions, Stockholm: “Shame, Empathy and Vulnerability: A Challenge for both the Client and the Therapist.”

If you have any questions about or wish to register for the conference, please contact conference secretary Martin Gunnarson: martin.gunnarson@sh.se

The conference is free of charge and the deadline for registration is June 30th.